

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03

PM-04 DODE-00 MC-02 PRS-01 AGR-05 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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O R 240030Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2046

INFO DEA HDQS WASHDC

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ARA FOR ASST. SEC. ROGERS, S/NM FOR AMB. VANCE, SER/INC
FOR WAMPLER, DEA FOR EOI CUSACK

FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: CALL ON MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

REF: (A) MEXICO 11321, (B) MEXICO 11273, (C) MEXICO 11322

SUMMARY: I MET WITH ROSALES MIRANDA AND DR. GERTZ ON
DECEMBER 23. THEY MADE STRONG PITCH FOR IMMEDIATE USG
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MORE SPRAY HELICOPTERS AND
PILOTS; SAID THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH ARMY TROOP COM-
MITMENTS TO CAMPAIGN; AND STRESSED THAT PRESENT STRATEGY IS,
AT OUR SUGGESTION, TO RELY ON SPRAYING RATHER
THAN FOOT SOLDIERS AND TIMELY INCREMENT OF EQUIPMENT
AND PERSONNEL (BY JAN. 15) WILL ENABLE
GOM TO CARRY OUT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN THIS
YEAR. WE THEREFORE MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,
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AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

LEVI'S REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED IN REF (A), I HAD AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE OJEDA PAULLADA AT NOON ON DEC. 23. OJEDA WAS UNEXPECTEDLY CALLED TO SEE PRESIDENT AT LOS PINOS, AND ASKED IF I WOULD AGREE TO MEET WITH DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROSALES AND CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR GERTZ IN HIS ABSENCE. I, OF COURSE, DID SO WITH HEATH AND ALBERTI ACCOMPANYING ME.

2. PRESENTATION OF ROSALES AND GERTZ WAS PATENTLY DESIGNED TO ALLAY USG PREOCCUPATION WITH COURSE OF INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN. THEY ASKED US TO ASSURE OUR GOVERNMENT THAT THE CAMPAIGN WOULD BE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS, IF THE GOM IS PROVIDED URGENTLY WITH CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL IN TIME (NO LATER THAN JAN. 15). IF THIS WERE DONE, THEY SAID, THEY GAVE THEIR PERSONAL GUARANTEE THAT CAMPAIGN WOULD BE FIRST-RATE.

3. ASIDE FROM CONFORTING GENERALITIES, AND EITHER IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTIONS OR AS SELF-INITIATED ARGUMENTS, GERTZ AND ROSALES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. STATISTICS SHOW 273 POPPY FIELDS DESTROYED IN FIRST MONTH OF CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS NEARLY TWICE THE NUMBER DESTROYED SAME TIME LAST YEAR. BUT WHILE RESULTS GENERALLY ARE BETTER THAN EVER THEY ADMITTED THAT PROBLEM ALSO IS GREATER THAN EVER, BOTH IN NUMBER OF FIELDS CULTIVATED AND IN EXTENTION OF GROWING SEASON TO COVER NEARLY ENTIRE YEAR.

B. THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH TROOP COMMITMENTS. THERE ARE SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF TROOPS WORKING NOW, CONSIDERING SHIFT OF MAJOR EMPHASIS TO HERBICIDES AS MAIN THRUST OF CAMPAIGN. IF MORE TROOPS ARE REQUESTED THE ARMY SUPPLIES THEM, BUT ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS NO PLANS TO ASK FOR MORE AT PRESENT. TO TRANSPORT AND MAINTAIN TROOPS IN FIELD IS EXPENSIVE AND COMPLICATED LOGISTICAL PROBLEM, AND A SQUAD OF TROOPS CAN DESTROY ONLY 3 OR 4 FIELDS PER DAY, WHILE A HELICOPTER CAN MULTIPLY THAT 6 TO 10 FOLD. ROSALES AND GERTZ INDICATED IT WAS INCONSISTANT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USG TO ATTACH SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO NUMBER OF TROOPS EMPLOYED WHEN IT WAS USG WHICH ENCOURAGED THEM TO CONSIDER THE VASTLY SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY OF SPRAYING.

C. CAMPAIGN CAN BE A MAJOR SUCCESS, BUT ONLY IF USG CAN HELP INCREASE GOM'S SPRAYING CAPACITY BY JANUARY 15. THE VAST NUMBER OF FIELDS (20,000 OR PERHAPS MORE) MEANS THAT GOM MUST LAUNCH MAJOR SPRAYING EFFORT AT ONCE IF FUTURE DISASTER IS TO

BE AVERTED. IF ONE 206 HELICOPTER CAN SPRAY AN AVERAGE (ADMITTEDLY CONSERVATIVE) OF 25 FIELDS PER DAY, IT MAY EASILY BE SEEN THAT TEN HELICOPTERS THEORETICALLY WOULD REQUIRE 80 OR MORE DAYS TO DO THE COMPLETE JOB. THIS IS AN UNACCEPTABLY LONG TIME AND MUST BE REDUCED. GERTZ MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR EQUIPPING ALL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HELICOPTERS FOR A TOTAL OF PERHAPS 30 TO 40 SHIPS. HE ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PILOTS TO BE OBTAINED BY TED LEOPOLD IN FIRST INSTANCE FROM LOCAL SOURCES. FAILING THAT, HE ASKED USG TO IDENTIFY MEXICAN OR SPANISH SURNAME PILOTS RESIDENT IN U.S. WHO MIGHT BE BROUGHT DOWN ON CONTRACT. GERTZ SAID THERE WOULD BE NO POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH THIS, SO LONG AS ALL AVAILABLE LOCAL MEXICAN PILOTS WERE HIRED FIRST.

D. THE GOM FOUND GRAMOXONE FINE FOR MARIJUANA DESTRUCTION, BUT BELIEVED THAT 2, 4D WAS SUPERIOR FOR KILLING POPPIES AND PROBABLY WOULD SHIFT TO USE OF THAT HERBICIDE.

E. CERTZ SAID GOM WELCOMED DEA'S COOPERATION IN THE FIELD, BUT REQUESTED THAT DEA INFORM HIM OF ALL PAYMENTS (PER DIEM, INCIDENTALS, ETC.) MADE TO MEXICAN FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE AGENTS BY DEA AGENTS. HEATH ASSURED GERTZ THAT THIS WOULD BE REPORTED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

F. VERY FEW OF THE POPPY FIELDS DESTROYED HAD BEEN HARVESTED, AND MANY OF THE FIELDS REPORTED BY DEA AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PILOTS TO BE POPPY HAD UPON CLOSER INSPECTION TURNED OUT IN FACT TO BE MARIJUANA.

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G. ROSALES AND GERTZ EXPRESSED REGRET THAT, ALTHOUGH GOM HAD MADE DECISION TO USE HERBICIDE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE SPRAY EQUIPMENT WAS JUST NOW ARRIVING IN COUNTRY. (NOTE: AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, GOM HAD ONLY AN EXPERIMENTAL HERBICIDE PROGRAM FOR FIRST SEVERAL MONTHS; DECISION TO MAKE LARGE-SCALE USE OF HERBICIDES WAS IN FACT ANNOUNCED BY OJEDA ONLY AS RECENTLY AS NOV. 8, WHEREUPON MISSION AND WASHINGTON WENT FULL STEAM AHEAD.)

3. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING
(WHICH LARGELY REPEATS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN REF B:

A. SER/INC AND S/NM URGENTLY EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING LEASED 206 HELICOPTERS ALREADY EQUIPPED FOR SPRAYING. WE WOULD RECOMMEND A MINIMUM OF FIVE, IF AVAILABLE.

B. IF RECOMMENDATION A IS IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT, THEN WE WOULD PROVIDE GOM WITH 5 MICRO-FOIL SPRAY SYSTEMS, ASSUMING THAT THERE ARE NO OVERRIDING DELAYS OR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED. JOHN FORD
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HAS IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL DISADVANTAGES TO PROVIDING MICRO-FOIL SYSTEMS TO EQUIP 212S FOR SPRAYING (JEOPARDIZING MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE SHIPS, INCREASED COST, MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS, ETC.) WHILE THESE ARE CERTAINLY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AND WOULD ARGUE FOR EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF 206 LEASE ARRANGEMENTS AS MOST DESIRABLE SOLUTION, WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE THAT MICRO-FOIL WOULD BE SECOND BEST ANSWER, FOR POLITICAL AS WELL AS OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS. THAT IS, THE GOM HAS URGENTLY REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING SPRAY EQUIPMENT AND WE WOULD APPEAR LESS THAN SERIOUS TO THEM SHOULD WE FAIL TO RISE TO THE OCCASION.

C. THE DEPT SHOULD AT ONCE IDENTIFY ANY MEXICAN OF OTHER SPANISH SURNAME PILOTS AVAILABLE IN U.S. AND SHOULD PROVIDE THIS LIST TO GOM FOR POSSIBLE USE.

D. WE REPEAT OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT USG EXPLORE IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY OF THREE NEW OR USED 206 HELICOPTERS FOR TRANSFER TO GOM. THIS REQUIREMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, BECOME LESS URGENT IF RECOMMENDATION A COULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

4. WE WISH TO STRESS GOM'S AND OUR, SINCERE BELIEF THAT TIME IS AT ONCE OUR BEST ALLY AND MOST DREAD ENEMY. WE MUST APPLY ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURE AND SEEK ALL MEASURES TO OBTAIN DELIVERY OF NEEDED EQUIPMENT NO LATER THAN JAN. 15. IF WE CAN DO THIS, WE CAN STILL WREST VICTORY FROM THE JAWS OF DEFEAT.

5. WE ARE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT OJEDA WILL REPEAT VIRTUALLY SAME ARGUMENTS TO AG LEVI WHEN THEY MEET ON DEC. 29. THIS BEING THE CASE, MR. LEVI WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO CARRY, IF POSSIBLE, GOOD NEWS ABOUT EQUIPMENT DELIVERY DATES, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE USG IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO PROVIDE TIMELY HELP TO GO. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, DEPT MAY ALSO WISH TO MODIFY SOMEWHAT THE TALKING POINTS SUGGESTED IN REF C, PARTICULARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOSE POINTS DEALING WITH TROOP COMMITMENT AND ALREADY HARVESTED POPPY FIELDS (PARA B AND D OF REFTEL.).JOVA

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